

Georgia Department of Transportation

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 27, 2007

FULTON COUNTY...

Georgia DOT Announces Statewide, Safe Routes to School Program on International Walk to School Day

WHEN: Wednesday, October 3, 2007 at 7:30 AM to 8:15 AM

WHERE: Morris Brandon Elementary, 2741 Howell Mill Road
Atlanta, GA, 30327; online at <http://morrisbrandon.com/index.php>

WHAT: International Walk to School Day at Morris Brandon Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia DOT Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl will greet over 600 kids and parents as they arrive in the morning for school. A brief ceremony will take place at 8:00 AM to officially commemorate International Walk to School Day. Officials will also be available for media interviews regarding Georgia's Safe Routes to School Program.

CONTACT: Media please RSVP to Carrie Hamblin– (404) 463-6457 to reserve a parking spot for the event.

Note: Parking is extremely limited. One vehicle parking spot per organization will be reserved first come, first served. Media will have access to school property and will be allowed to film/photograph students walking and biking to school. Please do not block traffic or park on the street, as that will impact student's safety and bus arrivals for school.

About Safe Routes to School:

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an international movement that began in the 1970's in Denmark and quickly spread to the United States in the 1990's and is now a worldwide phenomenon. The purpose of SRTS programs is to encourage kids to walk and bike to school, and to improve safety in the vicinity of schools. Fewer than 15 percent of all school trips are made by walking or bicycling, one-quarter are made on a school bus, and over half of all children arrive at school in private automobiles. This decline in walking and bicycling has had an adverse effect on traffic congestion and air quality around schools, as well as pedestrian and bicycle safety. Research has shown that 25% of morning traffic is parents driving their students to school.

The SRTS Program makes \$16 million in funding available in Georgia for a wide variety of programs and projects, from building safer street crossings to establishing programs that encourage children and their parents to walk and bicycle safely to school. For more information on Georgia's Safe routes to school program visit www.dot.state.ga.us/srts.

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